



## NEW RCC CAFETERIA LOCATION FACES CHALLENGES

By **Chanel Bethea**  
*Gazette Staff Reporter*

In the Spring semester of 2009, Roxbury Community College Administration informed the student body about the upcoming cafeteria renovations. The Census Bureau and Roxbury Community College made an agreement to temporarily renovate and occupy the Student Center in exchange for \$450,000 that would go towards lowering the cost of student fees.

Once the contract was final, RCC conducted a survey with two main ques-

tions: "Where should the new cafeteria go?" and "What kind of food should it serve?" For the first few weeks of the semester, students and staff were limited to vending machines while the cafeteria awaited permits necessary to open.

Roxbury Community College started the Fall 2009 semester without a cafeteria, but for the first few days the school offered free coffee in the hallway of the Academic Building. The RCC community wondered if there would be a Cafeteria this semester. The initial delay was due to plumbing issues, says Tom Galvin, the Director of Facilities.

On October 2nd the RCC community received an email from administration which stated that the RCC Cafeteria, newly located on the first floor, Room 125 of the Academic Building, will be open for business on Monday, October 5, 2009.

On Monday, October 5th at 8am, the cafeteria opened with their new vendor, AK's, serving breakfast and lunch. Today the Roxbury Community College cafeteria is located in the Academic Building on the first floor, next to the

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## RCC ADMINISTRATION PROVIDES GUIDELINES IN LETTER TO STUDENTS

School nurse Ruth Hines sent the following email, along with an attached list of flu vaccine clinics in the area, to all students in mid-October:

*Dear Roxbury Community College Students,*

*As the long weekend approaches, some students may be traveling. I appreciate your attention over the past month to washing your hands, covering your coughs, avoiding the sharing of food, drinks, water bottles or smoking materials, staying away from sick people, seeking medical care and staying home when sick.*

*When you are NOT at Roxbury Community College and are at other colleges, home or traveling, it is important to remember that you may also encounter sick people with fevers or coughs, even in crowds, and you need to keep practicing these prevention habits!*

*Please continue to get enough rest, and reduce stress by taking a walk, meditating, being with friends and family or listening to music. Consider getting the seasonal flu vaccine and the H1N1 vaccine, and speak with your health care providers about these*

*vaccines. I have attached a listing of free seasonal flu vaccines being offered in the College area. See the Boston Public Health Commission website [www.bphc.org](http://www.bphc.org) for information on influenza and vaccines.*

*Please keep the above prevention methods foremost in your minds over the long weekend. If you become sick while away from Roxbury Community College, please seek medical care, stay home and do not return to school until you are fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever reducing medicine). By following these recommendations, we can help keep the Roxbury Community College Community as healthy as possible.*

*Please contact me with your concerns: (617) 427-0060, ext 5030.*

*Sincerely,  
Ruth Hines, RN, ANP-BC, MS  
Coordinator of Student Health Services*



Former Hyatt house keepers march with faculty and students at RCC- Photo by Candido

## HYATT LAYOFFS MARCH FOR JUSTICE

By **Martial Ocampo**  
*Gazette Staff Reporter*

On August 31st, Monday afternoon, Gisela Romero, along with other Hyatt Hotel housekeeping staff, made their way to a mandatory meeting at the hotel's Regency Boston location only to be fired in a minute's notice by corporate officials. The Hyatt cited poor economic conditions as the driving force for the abrupt termination of the entire housekeeping department.

Romero claims that they were blatantly

lied to. She said that housekeeping staff actually trained their replacements under the pretense that these employees would be available for their holiday leave.

"They think because we're foreign and that because we have an accent we're stupid, but we're not...how can you run a hotel without a housekeeping staff? Who's going to clean the guest rooms?" said Romero, who now, after three years working for the hotel chain, is left with two daughters, no job, and no health insurance.

Where Romero cleaned guest rooms

and facilities of her former employer for \$13.62 cents an hour with full benefits, a new employee now takes over with a mere \$8.00 an hour, minimum wage, and no benefits. Rosa Lopez, former employee of sixteen years and former co-worker of Romero, called the exploitation - not only of those currently relieved of their position but of their replacements - an "injustice."

Massachusetts authorities are also lashing out at the company. Governor Pat-

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## SGA ELECTIONS: READ WHAT THE CANDIDATES SAID

By **Chris Foster**,  
*Gazette Staff Reporter*

On September 22nd 2009 in the 2009/2010 fall academic semester at Roxbury Community College, students on campus got the chance to meet the candidates running for president for the Student Government Association (SGA) where students had the opportunity to sit among the candidates to interview or ask questions prior to each candidate's campaigns.

Students who volunteered to run for president for this academic year are John Murphy III and Helia Shafa. Murphy stated that his primary goal is to work on the transfer services so that more course credits are transferable. On the other hand, the competition from Shafa's campaign stated that will be tak-



Newly elected SGA President, John Murphy, wants more RCC credits to be transferable - Photo by Biniyam Sissay

en into consideration at the first SGA meeting if she is to be elected.

Next, each candidate was questioned on what will be done differently once

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HYATT LAYOFFS...

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rick and Mayor Menino are just two officials who have spoken against the hotel's "mistreatment" of their former employees, instructing state employees to avoid doing business with the hotel chain. Hyatt officials, however, insist that the measures taken last month are some of many common protocols taken among companies to shorten the losses called by this year's financial storm. Although securing total revenues to date in 2009 of \$1.64 billion, Hyatt officials claim that, in comparison to last year's earnings, they've made 18.5 percent less and were forced to make significant changes in the company budget. Thursday's rally was just one of a string of boycott-rallies at all three Hyatt locations in the Boston area surrounding. *Editor's Note: The MCCC Union endorsed a proposal by the RCC Union to boycott the Hyatt Hotel. Interested RCC students and faculty picketed at a convention was held there on November 12.*

ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS: FRIENDS OR FOE?

By Martial Ocampo, Gazette Staff Reporter

At the campus of Roxbury Community College, the majority of students who were interviewed believe that illegal immigration is ultimately helping the U.S. Nine out of ten students answered that illegal immigrants help further stability in the nation's economy. In return for their refuge, illegal immigrants serve their debt by taking on the menial work of the country and its service industry—vastly bearing the full economic work force of the nation. During her interview, student and Haitian immigrant Tamase Numa sternly expressed her "two cents": "Where would Dunkin Donuts, or McDonalds, or Burger King, or cleaning services, or bussing, or restaurant dishwashers, or the few factories and farms we still do have left be, if it wasn't for illegal or legal immigrants?" Student Tony Daniels stated, "I want that #3 special with coffee...great! Consuela Hernandez will be getting that for

SGA ELECTIONS...

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elected. "The most important thing I could do would be to work towards the transferability of course credits in general," said Murphy. In addition, this candidate would request more staff in the Writing Center, more tutors in the Learning Center, and plans to put more books in the library for students without Financial Aid. He would also plan a unity party for students to unite and get to know each other. However, when Shafa was asked what she would do differently, her response was, "I will listen to the students along with my ideas." *Editor's Note: John Murphy III won the election and is now serving as the President of SGA.*

you because I sure. . will not be. That's pretty much how it works. We enjoy a luxury of pervasive and inexpensive services because we have an endless supply of exploitable labor...." When questioned about immigration being called a "victimless" crime, students affirmed that indeed they were victims to such an "injustice", but that the punishment was self-afflicting because the illegal immigrants were themselves the actual victims. One student who requested anonymity stated that the reality is "kind of a perfect system in a very, very sick way. It's almost like slavery 2.0.....we pay them.... but not enough to live decent lives....and we've figured out how to balance the cost of acquiring the slaves....no boats or expeditions needed anymore... now we just wait for the slaves to show up and beg for a job....once again....it's sick but it's actually the greatest thing for business, as it was for the U.S. before the Civil War." In an immigrant filled college, many students stood up for "illegal" friends.

DR. MERCOMES, VICE PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, SPEAKS TO ESOL STUDENTS

By Prof. Manju Hertzig and her Students

The students in Prof. Hertzig's ESOL class, English in the Newspaper, met with Dr. Brenda Mercomes, Vice President of Academic Affairs, to learn about her life and her job here on campus. Born in Kansas, she finished her high school there and then went to the northern central part of Kansas to what was then called Kansas State Teacher's College and got a B.A. degree in English. Mercomes moved to the Boston area in 1986 and taught at Massasoit Community College in Brockton for 2 years. She then became Division Chair and applied for a position in administration while working on her Ed.D. in Administration. She's been at RCC for the last six years. Although she loves being Vice President of RCC, she misses having time to read and relax. She confided that her "dirty little secret" is to watch a daily soap opera that she records earlier. She answered several questions from the students. Some are summarized below: **Question # 1:** "Where do you get the money to run the school? What are the various sources of revenue and where do they come from?" **Response:** A large portion comes from the state. We also have tuition fees that you pay. In addition, we have grants – money from grants and different programs that we get money for. For example, we have a program, "Welfare to Work" that pays the college to bring people in who are just about to get off welfare and give them courses. Once they finish, we make sure they get an internship and job and the agency pays the college. So, we have a variety of sources. We're starting a capital campaign. **Question # 2:** What kind of academic support do students have when they need help and what funding do we have for it? **Response:** There's the Writing Center on the 2nd floor. It'll soon be called the Center for Student Support. There's also the Math Clinic which is good. I always tell students to talk to their professors, and the professors will suggest either going to their office or going to The Learning Center. Very soon, we'll be submitting a grant proposal to try and make improvements so we may be able to hire more tutors. As far as the funding, there are scholarship funds. We have the RCC Foundation that gives scholarship money to students. You might want to look into talking to Mark Garth, Dean for Student Success, who also has resources he can help you with. **Question # 3:** What steps are being taken at RCC to help students get computer literacy? **Response:** We've contemplated having a 1 credit requirement for computer literacy. We've talked about having it as a



ESOL students enjoy their time with Dr. Brenda Mercomes

component of the College Experience. Of course people who are already computer literate wouldn't have to take that 1 credit course. What they would do is perhaps take a short 20 minute test and get 1 credit. But all this means money. We know because we have some of our older students who haven't grown up with computers as some of the 17 and 18 year-olds graduating from high schools now that have had computers all their lives. For many people in their late 30's and 40's, computers are somewhat new to them and they're not really sure, but I think we owe all students the opportunity to be computer literate because that's the way of the world today. So, I haven't abandoned the 1 credit yet, but we need to figure out how to do it. **Question #4:** We understand there's a budget crisis in this state. However, having visited other community colleges here, we know how technologically evolved they are. So, we'd like to know if there are any plans to redo or renovate the classrooms and equip them with new technology. **Response:** Yes, there's a budget crisis. We also know that there are areas in technology that we need to improve on. I would challenge you that Massasoit is that far ahead of us because I was there for 17 years. I know that school very well. I would say that Bunker Hill probably does have more resources but there's a simple reason for it. They have 8,000 students. Massasoit has 7,000 and our capacity's 3,000 students. Even in the last few years when we've had 2,500 -2,600 students, we still have problems finding space. The time when students want to go to school is between 8:00am – 12:30 or 1:00pm. Then it's work or family. People will come back for 6:00 p.m. classes. Between 1:00-6:00 p.m. we've got a lot of space for classes but students don't want to take classes during that time. That's one of the reasons our resources aren't as great, because as I told you before, part of the money to

run the school comes from tuition and fees. We're bringing some people in to evaluate our problems with our technology and they'll be giving us recommendations on what we can do to change. The president is very much in favor of this. This is something he initiated and started. We hope to be able to solve some of those technological problems before September and make things much better for you technologically. Even though we don't have the great resources that we'd like to have, we do have a plan for improvement. That plan, I know for a fact, is going to be launched this week. So, you're right at the beginning of something that's going to be changing and hopefully by September, it will be much, much better. **Question #5:** Future plans for RCC? **Response:** We have a Biotechnology Associate Degree Program which will get underway in September. We've added new course in the Languages, Arabic 1 and 11. We're working to change the Humanities Program. One of the things we're going to be offering is called the Mass Transfer Advantage Certificate. This will allow students to take 34-35 credits, as long as they start at college level. You can't count the developmental. You take 34-35 credits and you have a certificate from here within a year. These are some of the things we're going to be doing with our capital campaign: improving our computer labs, improving our classrooms, buying new chairs, getting them painted, just making things look nicer for you. We're also hoping to add more faculty members because we have some excellent faculty members but we don't have a lot of full-time people. So, I'd like to, in the next five years, add another 10 new faculty members to our ranks here. Thank you, Dr. Mercomes, for some good and valuable information.



ROXBURY TEENS TELL WHY THEY SELL DRUGS

By Elijah Myers  
Gazette Staff Reporter

In late September some teenagers from Roxbury spoke candidly about why they sell drugs. One said, "My mom put me in the game." He stated that his mom

made him sell drugs around last year when his father went to jail for armed robbery. He believes that selling drugs is not the way of life, but he has to do what his mom wants him to do as long as he lives with her. Another said that a regular job would not allow him to buy expensive clothes. He believes that what he is doing is the best thing for him. He does not fear the police or jail because "he has been there - done that." He later stated that even if he does get caught, he will "get out and hit the block." The last teenager simply said, "I have a criminal background." This young lady believes she will never find a job that will pay as much as she makes. She said, "This is my life and that's it." Roxbury teenagers are not just selling drugs any more just for fast cash. For many it is their way of life.





# THE NEW RCC CAFETERIA LOCATION...

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women's bathroom, replacing what used to be the IT storage unit. The dining area is located in Rooms 127 and 129 in the Academic Building, newly decorated with art work and flats screens mounted on the wall. The administration would describe the new cafeteria as convenient to the student body.

Roxbury Community College is trying to encourage students and staff to use

the cafeteria. City Fresh, RCC's former vendor, lost \$60,000 - not including the rental fees -and when asked to renew their contract in December 2008, they declined. Many students requested that Mississippi 's serve the new cafeteria. Although posed with the opportunity to bid, they passed. AK's was the only vender that bid for the RCC Cafeteria.



"Don't let the door hit you in the face!" - Photo by Biniyam Sissay

# RCC STUDENTS WEIGH IN ON NEW CAFETERIA

By **Victor Munoz and Martial Ocampo**  
*Gazette Staff Reporters*

Rhonda Glen, a second semester student, when asked if she had been to the new cafeteria, stated that she never goes there. Another student, Jessica Clark, said that she didn't even know where the cafeteria was located, even though she was standing across the hall from it. She did say that she used to go to the cafeteria in its Student Center location. Altagracia Mirabel, the secretary in Liberal Arts, said that she doesn't use the new cafeteria because she brings her own lunch. However, she would use the cafeteria in its former

location when she didn't bring her lunch.

A tutor in TLC, who wished to remain anonymous, said that she didn't like the food and doesn't use the new cafeteria. Bryan Lenane thinks the "coffee is awful. They don't change it enough and it goes bad. Dunkin Donuts and Butterfly change it frequently so it tastes fresh." Greg Juste, a BMT major, thinks that the cafeteria should invest in a deluxe George Forman Grill so that they can make sandwiches and burgers. "When you come out, you can get hit in the face with the doors," said Chris Foster, another BMT major. "I don't like the location."

# EDUCATION'S PLIGHT

By **Jonathan Hart**  
*Gazette Staff Reporter*

What effects do race, economy, and teachers have on education? Donette Wilson a Newton elementary school principal was interviewed one these very questions. She's been in education for 20 years, obtained her Master degree from Wheelock College, and has been a principal in both Boston Public and Suburbia schools. According to Mrs. Wilson education has improved since her days in terms of access, as well as its importance to a better life, but we still have a long way to go.

When questioned about whether a disparity barrier existed between Boston Public and Suburbia schools she said yes. She stated Boston Public schools are missing a system that believes it can achieve quality teachers, parent information, and resources. She also says that these differences are part of the direct connection to the black community's economic state, lack of education, the community's access to healthcare, and much more. Mrs. Wilson believes

there is no real equal opportunity in the education system, and that education should be the same across the board.

As far as America's current financial state, Mrs. Wilson says it's affected the schools in different ways. She says there's been a surge of private school kids entering the public school system as well as less fund raising and contributions. When questioned on how parents can help mold there children's mind Mrs. Wilson said exposure to real life things, books, museums, experiencing different countries and cultures, spending time with children, and being involved.

Mrs. Wilson hopes to ultimately oversee a Boston Public School again. She says she wants to give back to the community as well as empower kids of color, and help them not feel marginalized. Last she commented on what it takes to be a great teacher, Mrs. Wilson responded with the teachers having high expectations for their kids, be compassionate, inspirational, and most of all they must care. In closing Mrs. Wilson has also come to realize that her passion to mold the young minds

# PROFESSOR BARBARA SAVAGE JOINS RCC MATH FACULTY



Prof. Barbara Savage brings enthusiasm and experience to RCC

Newly appointed Associate Professor of Mathematics Dr. Barbara Savage has joined our full-time faculty this semes-

ter. Savage's educational background is in religion and mathematics, but her vocation, as she states, "is in improving access to math and science education for all students, but especially those at the bottom of the socio-economic ladder for whom education is a necessary ladder to achieve their dreams, goals and aspirations."

Savage has taught students from the inner city to Oxford! She believes that "all students desire excellent instruction and educational resources, and that when presented with them they will excel." When she fails a student, she asks her-

self why the student failed. "It is important to me that I present every opportunity for my students to learn without handicapping them by accepting their excuses or the excuses that society gives as to why minority and/or poor students don't excel in math and science."

Prof. Savage holds a Ph.D. from Episcopal Divinity School and a Master's Degree from Harvard University in Teaching Math and Science. She has had extensive experience in the teaching of math and science.

# HOMELESSNESS IN AMERICA: THE REAL DEAL

By **Martial Sanchez Ocampo**  
*Gazette Staff Reporter*

Stephanie and Matt Browne have been happily together for ten years, but like the many victims of this "Great Recession", they too have fallen into the fetters of unemployment, and ultimately have now found themselves further into the pit of homelessness.

A year ago the couple came from Stephanie's home town of Tampa, FL and into Boston in search of financial stability. Rather, for eight months now, the two have spent tramping about city to city searching for a salutary end to what has been an endless job search.

From the homeless shelters of Lowell, Mass, Stephanie and Matt now occupy the corner of Boylston and Mass. Ave. with their four year old pit-bull-terrier collecting the alms of any willing benefactor along their "tiring" search.

Stephanie loves animals and has years of experience working for veterinary clinics and other supporting organizations. Her latest prospect, MSPCA, led on a ninety-day evaluation only to dismiss her three days before its completion. To this disappointment, Stephanie expressed ruefully that "coming up to Boston hasn't

been any better than having to deal with the same s---t in Tampa...at least we had the warm weather and family".

Her husband, Matt, said to once being an exceptional dean-listed student at BFIT (Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology), was forced to dismiss his studies as a result of unpaid student loans and other financial obligations.



Later in the conversation, Stephanie seemingly falls from her former poise and nonchalant persona as her voice breaks and she talks about her lowest point in this eight-month ordeal—"I'm just happy that I got my baby here with me (referring to her dog) and my husband cause I don't know what I'd do without em...actually a couple months ago I'd admitted myself into a psych

ward, and if not for them, I don't think I would've made it".

After taking some time to compose herself, Stephanie explains that "unlike the others (referring to other homeless people)" she and her husband are in constant search of work and don't "bother" with drugs or alcohol. "When we're not sleeping in our car we're out looking" Stephanie stated.

Stephanie's car—a white-colored Dodge Neon from 2000—bear all the couple's belongings. From work attire and evening apparel to personal documents and electronics, all are crammed in the back seat and in the trunk of the small vehicle as they make their way about the city in hope of long-awaited redemption.

Above all the stereotypes and prejudice that surround the city's poor and needy, above those who traipse the city streets of Boston with all of roguish intentions, Stephanie and Matt Browne are among two of many U.S. citizens that fight the battle of bad omen and poverty with the resilience of true heroes. By their solemn example, citizens should make note of all the much needed assistance in this economic drought and aid in the nations fight against homelessness.

# WORD OF HONOR: RCC HONORS PROGRAM

by **Chanel Bethea**  
*Gazette Staff Reporter*

Last year 180 students participated in the May graduation ceremonies at Roxbury Community College and about 15% had a cumulative GPA of 3.3 or above, making them eligible for the Honors Program. Yet only five students graduated as Honors members.

The Honors Program at Roxbury Community College (RCC) shows the commitment of the college to academically talented students. This program is designed especially to meet the intellectual aspirations and expectations of highly motivated and talented students. The Honors Program creates an environment providing quality educational opportunities that are tailored to the needs, wishes and abilities of its students. The Coordinator of the Honors Program and Honors faculty advisers work closely with participants as they meet this academic challenge over the course of their RCC career.

Program Admission Requirements: Students who have completed at least 12 credit courses at RCC with a GPA of 3.3 or higher are eligible for the Honors Program. Applicants are required to submit two letters of recommendation (from RCC faculty), write an essay and be in the process of completing an Associates Degree. Applications can be

submitted to the Honors Program Coordinator, Professor Eric Entermann, whose office is located in the Academic Building room 3-501.

Program Requirements:

Students must maintain a 3.3 GPA. If the GPA falls below, students will be allowed to continue in the program for one probationary period. Students are required to take at least 3 Honors courses (9 credits or more) and one Honors Colloquium. The colloquium counts as one of the required courses and takes an interdisciplinary approach in an environment of creative interaction while students explore the fundamental ideas of human civilization.

Additionally, Honors students can take advantage of a number of opportunities open to all high-achieving students at Roxbury Community College. The RCC Honors Program has the following advantages:

- Automatic acceptance into State College/University Honors Program
- Honors Designation on diploma and transcripts
- Scholarship opportunities
- Small classes
- Entrance into honors courses
- Special recognition at graduation
- Tuition waiver during last semester before graduation

- Opportunities for field trips, conferences, cultural and social activities

For more information on the Honors Program, visit it on the web:

[www.rcc.mass.edu/academics/honorsprogram](http://www.rcc.mass.edu/academics/honorsprogram)

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OPINIONS

IN MY DAY, IT WAS UPHILL BOTH WAYS

By Sherene McKenley  
Liberal Arts Clerk

I have been happily informed that Roxbury Community College is currently planning to form a LGBT club. For our less acronym-savvy friends, LGBT means: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered. The idea of an LGBT organization existing on campus promotes the idea that everyone is welcome, not only for our gay and bisexual students, but for everyone. The reason: the key building blocks to any LGBT group are acceptance, understanding and respect.

However, I have ambivalent feelings. I think the creation of an LGBT club is wonderful. I definitely did not have as many outlets when I was growing up. I'm happy to know that the era of young people attempting to figure out their sexual identity alone is slowly vanishing. America is slowly inching towards acceptance.

I am also disheartened that many of our LGBT youth aren't aware of the struggle to reach this level of openness about sexuality in our country. I loathe saying that the LGBT movement in America is like the Civil Rights movement. There are levels to which I agree, but the major difference is my skin will always be seen. I carry it with me everywhere I go. Being gay is moot until I make it a point.

I want teens who come out at sixteen or seventeen to know about the struggle it took, to ensure they now have the ability to do so. I want them to know that being out and open sixty years ago meant you could be put into a mental asylum and given electroshock therapy. I want them to know that going to clubs like Pure and Machine fifty years ago could have had them arrested. I want them to know about Stonewall. I want them to know thirty-five years ago their government ignored a rising health epidemic because it was thought of as a "gay disease." I want them to know about Harvey Milk. I want them to know about Matthew Shepard and what only happened ten years ago. I want them to read James Baldwin, Audre Lord, Oscar Wilde, Rita Mae Brown, bell hooks and Walt Whitman as they would William Shakespeare, Toni Morrison, Robert Frost, John Steinbeck and Richard Wright. Most importantly, I want them to realize that although the acceptance of America's LGBT community is not one hundred percent, there are far worse situations existing in our world.

Tel Aviv, Israel, August 1st of this year: a gunman entered a gay community center and opened fire, killing two and injuring fifteen. What really angered me beyond comprehension was that this happened in a setting which promoted safety and acceptance. I can't begin to imagine the gut-wrenching feeling survivors have at the attack and desecration of their safe harbor. Doubly so, because they exist in a place where violence and tension are an everyday occurrence. Increasing the tension by adding the issue of sexuality seems disheartening.

What saddened me the most was that

most of the individuals in attendance were young. The victims who died were only seventeen and twenty-four. It's horrible these individuals hadn't even experienced a sliver of what life has to offer. However, it's horrendous this took place because of who they chose to love (I use "chose" loosely, because it's not a choice).

I don't flaunt my sexuality, but I'm never ashamed to say I'm gay. Yet, I will also readily admit, that I never thought I could be shot because of it. I worry the world is moving in the direction where human lives are expendable. Some would argue that's the way it's always been and I chose to notice now. And, they might be right. This wasn't a Middle East issue, or a Third World issue. It was a global issue.

I think about me at seventeen, twisted in a million directions, trying to cope with my sexuality and failing miserably. Then moving to a cockier me at twenty-four, I figured some stuff out, been around the block a couple of times, but I really didn't know squat. Although, I thought I did. Now I realized neither of those individuals will ever get the chance to figure it out, to go through the rigors of relationships, to find the person that's just right for them or to feel the tiny arms of the person they would come to love more than themselves wrap around their neck: all for something so inconsequential.

Our world is made up of ambiguous lines and boxes. We live in an overlapping spectrum where everything bleeds together. Perception and reality are incongruous. As social beings, we attempt to create one uniform reality from 6 billion individual ones. I wish life were simpler. I wish we had the simple realization that the person sitting next to you on the T, or in the next car over, or your boss all want the same thing: to be content. Life makes it harder for us to see, but we all try to return to our beginnings. We can't forget unconditional love, being tenderly held in arms so much stronger than our own, feeling safe and comforted by those arms, the warmth of clothes on our backs, enough food that we were sated and a soft bed to dream our dreams.

I keep Tel Aviv in my mind. I hold dear the liberties I have. I am thankful for those who suffered so I wouldn't. I'm relieved I can be myself without pretense. I'm gracious that I live somewhere I could marry the individual I loved, if I chose to. Lastly, I hope we never forget from whence we came.

I want to leave with my favorite verse written in a song, Ani DiFranco's Silhouette:

"I know there is strength in the differences between us, and I know there is comfort where we overlap."

If you are interested in starting a Campus Chapter of GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered), please contact The Gazette at writingcenter@roxbury.edu

DISTINGUISHED VOICES ON CAMPUS

By Judy Kahalas  
Editor, Gateway Gazette

RCC Social Science Professor Tesfay Aradom has worked diligently in research and maintains an active involvement in sharing his expertise with his native Eritrea. Dr. Aradom, who teaches psychology at the college, has written extensively on the vulnerable populations of Eritrea and has worked closely with the Eritrean government and as a consultant to many non-governmental offices such as UNICEF. He has taught at the medical school in Eritrea as well.

To read Dr. Aradom's latest publication, "It Takes a Nation to Raise a Child," go to this link: [www.alenalki.com](http://www.alenalki.com).

Prof. Veronica McCormack, Chair of the Language Department, visited Tanzania this summer as guests of Professors Kiefson (English) and Mohamed (Business and Technology). While there, she took a side trip to spend some time working at the Amani Children's Home, a refuge for street children. During her visit, she taught some English

and brought small gifts to these children. McCormack is now actively raising funds to support the Children's Home. The Boston Globe recently highlighted her trip to Tanzania.

Prof. Susan Kalt of the Language Department and Director of the Language Lab has been invited to talk about mutual influences of Spanish and Quechua at a conference next year. Dr. Kalt has been invited to present her important linguistic research at the following conferences: Linguistic Society of America/Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages of the Americas (Atlanta); Workshop on the Constituent Structure of the Languages of the Americas (in Ottawa with well-known Peruvian linguist Juan Carlos Godenzzi); American Association of Applied Linguists (Baltimore); and Université de Montréal by invitation of the government of Montreal.

Students and faculty should send any information about their accomplishments to [jkahalas@rcc.mass.edu](mailto:jkahalas@rcc.mass.edu).

MY FRESHMAN YEAR AT ROXBURY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

By Jesika Holmes  
Media Broadcasting Major

What is it like being a student-athlete at a Division III junior college? The answer is ... it's not what you might expect! When choosing to attend Roxbury Community College, I just knew that I was going to breeze through this year! It's just a community college, right?

Now, here I am, three weeks into classes and my body feels like I've been hit by a bus. Between the team trainer's intense pre-season workouts and Coach Leszyk and Coach Yahya's famous two minute runs - in addition to a 16 credit course load in Media Broadcasting - and I'm starting to think it might not be such a breeze. But that's a good thing!

Throughout the long days of class, basketball practice and homework, it is great to have a supportive team like the Lady Tigers to always have my back. Whether it's me trying to understand a drill in practice or trying to understand a math problem in study hall, I know that my team will always be here for me. We're a group of talented, strong, opinionated women - so inevitably there are days when things are not completely copacetic with our team, but as long as we're able to maintain respect for each other while expressing our individuality, we will be fine.

Three weeks into classes, how many students can say they've created a dozen or so friendships that have the potential to last long past the days of study hall and late night cram sessions? That's what being a college athlete, on any level, can do for you.

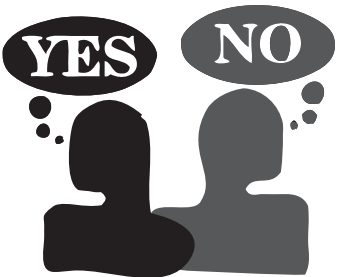
POET'S CORNER


Don't Ever

Don't Ever  
Eat your bread  
while it's still bread.  
Stoke your fire  
while it's still fire  
in order to cook your soup  
while it's still soup.  
Who knows what may happen  
tonight?  
It may become poison  
poison to kill you.  
Who knows?  
So be wise!  
Who really knows?  
Tomorrow is not true.  
Tomorrow is smoke fumes  
fumes like youth.  
Don't ever trust it.  
Once your soup is cooked,  
Take it  
even though it's hot,  
hot like the sun's palms  
Even though it may burn your  
hands,  
burn your tongue,  
Take it!  
Blow it  
Shake it  
Make it sweet  
because it's yours,  
yours, like today.  
Take it!  
Eat it, once  
once for all,  
my friend.

Jean Frantz Le beau

YOUR OPINION DOES MATTER



  
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Staff and students are invited to send letters to the editor, news tips, ideas for articles and photos and other information for the Gazette to [writingcenter@roxbury.edu](mailto:writingcenter@roxbury.edu). All submissions are subject to editing and run on a space available basis. The opinions expressed in these pages do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.

Faculty advisor:  
Judith Kahalas, Coordinator of The Writing Center